



### KIPP DC: KEY Academy

4801 Benning Road, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20019  
Principal: Sarah Hayes

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KEY adheres to the national KIPP model of adding more time for structured learning and holding high expectations for students. KEY students have approximately 65% more class time than typical students through extensions of the day, week, and school year calendar. Students attend a three-week July summer session during which the focus is on diagnosis of needs. Teachers then spend August planning for the students they will have in the coming year.

- ◆ Middle (5–8)
- ◆ 98% Black
- ◆ 1% Hispanic
- ◆ 6% Special Education

The fifth grade mathematics program is designed to remediate all the basic K–5 skills of incoming students in one year with a strong focus on computation. Teachers focus on building number sense, teaching arithmetic facts, developing proficiency in operations, and sharpening problem-solving skills. Teachers build a strong understanding of place value and start early on proportional reasoning, equivalent fractions, and ratio. By sixth grade, students begin algebra and become familiar with basic geometry and measurement. Seventh and eighth grade students take pre-algebra and algebra.

The instructional approach includes introducing new mini-skills each day along with continual review. The teachers use manipulatives, visual representations, and various memory devices to help students master skills. Teachers prepare students to approach problems in as many different ways as possible and learn how to use estimation to check the reasonableness of their answers. Each lesson has a clear objective; the lesson agenda is posted so students understand what is expected.

Students extend their learning day with homework; students have about 30 homework problems each evening. Teachers are available to students by phone to assist, as necessary.

Most teachers monitor student learning daily and use assessments weekly to determine mastery. Staff is now in the process of developing end-of-quarter assessments.